



# NEW PLYMOUTH BASKETBALL

## **Report from the Chair For the year ended 30 September 2016**

2016 has been another challenging but fulfilling year for New Plymouth Basketball Association. A small group of people, with a passion for the game, have continued to beaver away in the background creating opportunities for players, coaches, officials that they haven't previously been available.

### **Leagues:**

Our basketball leagues continue to be the backbone of the organisation with our stadium facilities being stretched even further this year as we cater for our Senior, Secondary School, Intermediate and Primary school teams. Thanks to our league coordinators, Pam Moss and Andy Cowie, who have done fantastic job juggling the draws fitting everyone in ensuring teams have an opportunity to play in a league.

This year the senior leagues were near capacity and we are grateful for the support of the secondary school community in helping us by making their gyms available – for both the senior leagues and our age group programme. Particular thanks to Francis Douglas Memorial College who helped us out with our Senior League this year and who are always ready and willing to help the sport out.

Not only are the stadium facility resources stretched to their limit but the supporting coaching and referee resources are also under huge pressure. Thanks to Tony Eldershaw for his continued efforts in coordinating referees for our leagues but also for his timeless efforts in growing and developing the next generation of officials for our game. Tony's efforts were recognised this year when he was nominated by NPBA for the Official of the Year category at the recent Sport Taranaki Sports Awards.

### **Tournaments:**

NPBA hosted the Zone 3 Junior Secondary Schools tournament this year. As a general philosophy, the association is keen to host as many tournaments as we are able. It brings competition to our city from outside the region and gives our players, officials and coaches opportunities share and learn that they might not otherwise have.

Special thanks to our Tournament Committee, Christine Mori, Pam Moss, John and Margaret Carley who are always ready, willing and able to run our tournaments. They do a fantastic job and really do set the standard nationally when it comes to running events of this nature.

### **Age Group**

Our age group program is by far the biggest growth area in the organisation. Riding on the back of Steven Adams, NBA games on our TV's, the success of the Breakers, the numbers of younger aged players is growing dramatically. This has really tested the organisation and at times placed it under huge stress.

The rewards that come with it do outweigh the benefits though. This year NPBA sent 14 teams away to the Basketball Pacific Easter Tournament in Rotorua and Tauranga. Finding coaches, managers and officials to support such a programme is a huge challenge. Special thanks to those people who did put their hand up and got involved in the various roles.

Special thanks to the Age Group committee led by Matt Cursons and supported by Dave Cooper, Andrew Hammerich and Tony Eldershaw, for all the hard work and hours you have recorded during the year to make this programme a success.

Being a member of Basketball Pacific gave us the opportunity to host the BBP Jamboree in New Plymouth this year. This was held in July at the TSB Stadium and by all reports was well run and well received. Thanks again to the age group committee for organising this event. We will host this again in 2017 and will make the most of the opportunity to build on everything that was learnt this year.

Basketball Pacific also provides our age group participants an opportunity to travel to Australia with the Koru programme and the opportunity to attend the Murray River Jamboree for our younger athletes and officials. I am pleased to report that these events were well supported by NPBA this year.

Thank you also to Matt Cursons who works hard on the relationship with Basketball Pacific and is our representative at all Basketball Pacific meetings and events. His contribution was recognised this year when he was appointed a director of BBP. Well done Matt.

NPBA also sent U13 teams to the BBNZ Central Regional Tournament held in Wellington as well as U11 and U123 teams to the Labour Weekend tournament in Rotorua.

### **Basketball Taranaki Inc.**

NPBA continues to play an active and important role in Basketball Taranaki. Dave Cooper is Chair, Therese Campbell is Funding Officer and yours truly is the Treasurer. Thanks to our representatives on the BTI Board. It does demand a lot of time but there is an important role to play in managing the state of basketball in the region.

BTI has led a strategic review of basketball in the province this year. The process is part way through. The intent is to provide some clarity and strategic direction for the future of basketball in Taranaki. NPBA has a critical role to play in that.

## **NZ Reps**

Special mention to our members who achieved National honours this year.

### Players

- Aaron Bailey-Nowell                      NZ Maoris;
- Bayley Ransfield                      Junior Tall Ferns; and
- Joellen How                      Junior Tall Ferns

### Coaches

- David Bublitz                      NZ U16 Boys Assistant Coach
- Trent Adam                      Junior Tall Ferns Assistant Coach

Well done and great recognition for all your hard work.

## **Committee**

Lastly, and certainly not least, thank you to the members of the NPBA committee. A special group of dedicated individuals who have a passion for the game and who all have a shared vision of seeing the game of basketball succeed in our community.

More often than not, the role of a committee member is a thankless task and many people, both inside and outside the organisation, have strong opinions on how things should be done. At the end of the day, there's only a small group of people who are willing to put their necks on the line and commit to the organisation to get things done. This special group all work hard behind the scenes and, most importantly, make things happen.

The committee includes:

- Eileen Hall                      Secretary
- Andrew Hammerich                      Treasurer
- Therese Campbell                      BTI Rep
- Dave Cooper                      BTI Chair
- Pam Moss                      League Co-ordinator
- Tony Eldershaw                      Referee Co-ordinator
- Matt Cursons                      Age Group Chair, Basketball Pacific Director
- Paul Crighton                      Committee Member

Eileen is stepping down from the secretarial role this year. Thanks Eileen for all your hard work. I am pleased to say Eileen will put her hand up to be involved with the committee in 2017.

Paul Crighton will also step down from the committee after many years contributing to the game including representing NPBA on the BTI Board and performing the NPBA secretarial role.

Thank you to you both for your wonderful contribution to the organisation and to the game.

That wraps up my report for 2016. Big thanks to anyone that I may have missed. No doubt, basketball in 2017 will be another challenging but exciting year.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Paul', with a stylized, flowing script.

Kevin Fenwick  
Chair  
27 November, 2016